

Message Text

SECRET

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AF:TWSEELYE

S:JCOVEY

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 214405

NODIS

CHEROKEE-FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND SCHAUFEELE FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH JOSHUA NKOMO

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH JOSHUA NKOMO, THE MEETING MUST BE SET UP AND CONDUCTED WITH THE UTMOST DISCRETION. IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING WITH THE ZAMBIANS, YOU SHOULD INFORM MARK CHONA OR ANOTHER FIGURE CLOSE TO KAUNDA THAT YOU INTEND TO MEET PRIVATELY AND QUIETLY WITH NKOMO TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WHICH THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFEELE HAVE HAD WITH HIM IN THE PAST.

2. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE ARE NOT TALKING TO NKOMO EXCLUSIVELY. WE STILL EXPECT THE PRESIDENTS TO OBTAIN A COMMITMENT TO OUR PROGRAM FROM THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS.

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3. WE ARE PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN HAVING NKOMO'S VIEWS

ON HOW THE SITUATION IS DEVELOPING AND WHAT HIS PLANS ARE. WHEN YOU MEET WITH NKOMO, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

(A) -- WE HAVE FOLLOWED HIS TRAVELS AND ARE PLEASED WITH THE SUPPORT HE HAS FOUND. WE WERE GLAD HE WAS ABLE TO SEE

THE SHAH. WE WOULD LIKE HIM TO KEEP US INFORMED OF HIS PLANS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA.

(B) -- HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT UNDER SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE ARE CONTINUING OUR CONSULTATIONS ON RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA WITH THEIR VISITS TO ZAMBIA, TANZANIA AND MOZAMBIQUE. IF ALL GOES WELL, THE SECRETARY WILL MEET AGAIN WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND TRY TO MOVE THE SETTLEMENT ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

(C) -- WE ARE SURE THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS TOLD NKOMO HOW WE SEE THE RHODESIAN SITUATION DEVELOPING. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE BRITISH THE OUTLINES OF A PROGRAM WHICH WOULD LEAD ZIMBABWE TO MAJORITY RULE IN 18 MONTHS TO 2-1/2 YEARS OR EARLIER UNDER A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE A BLACK MAJORITY. BROADLY SPEAKING, OUR PROGRAM WOULD BE UNDERWRITTEN BY BRITISH CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING UP TO A CONSTITUTION, ATTENTION WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE POSITION OF THE WHITE MINORITY. IT IS, HOWEVER, OUR INTENTION TO MAKE SURE THAT BLACK RHODESIANS OCCUPY THE PLACE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS.

(D) -- THE MOMENTUM OF OUR CONSULTATIONS IS CLEARLY INCREASING. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT NKOMO'S PLANS ARE. SINCE WE WILL WISH TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH HIM DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS, WE HOPE HE WILL STAY IN LUSAKA OR IN OTHER CAPITALS WHERE WE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HIM. THIS WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE IF HE RETURNS TO SALISBURY.

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(E) -- IN A DISCREET WAY, WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR COMMUNICATIONS OPEN TO NKOMO. IT REMAINS OUR JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, THAT IF PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT IS TO BE MADE, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST LEADERS ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO NEGOTIATE WITH WHITE RHODESIANS THE FORMATION OF A BLACK MAJORITY TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. EAGLEBURGER

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